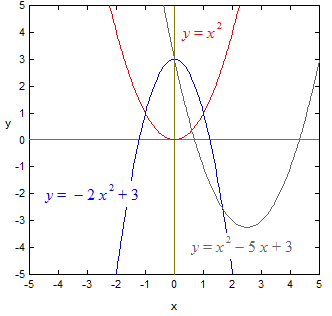
Algebra I



Course Syllabus

Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

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**What is this course about?**

Algebra is all about numbers and relationships. In Algebra I, we study numbers in equations and expressions, and then move on to study the relationships known as functions – linear, exponential, quadratic, and polynomial. We study these numbers and relationships so that we can use them in models that help us understand the real world around us.

**Essential Question**

Essential questions are the larger questions that help guide our study throughout the year. The essential question that we will come back to again and again in this course is:

*How can real-world problems be modeled and solved with algebra?*

**What will the curriculum look like?**

Our curriculum is designed to build algebraic fluency and problem solving. What does that mean to you? You may notice that you will spend much of our class time in one of two ways: You will either repeat one type of problem multiple times to ensure that you are *fluent* in it (much like using repetition to build vocabulary in a foreign language). Or, you will be asked to explore challenging and meaningful problems that you *have not already been taught to solve* and to work – either on your own or as a member of a collaborative team – toward a creative solution. If this makes you uncomfortable at first, be open-minded. You will learn more, and you will develop skills and attitudes that can help you be successful in college and in the workplace.

We will cover eight main units:

1. Algebraic Expressions 6. Exponents and Exponential Functions
2. Simplifying Expressions 7. Polynomials
3. Variable Equations 8. Quadratic Functions
4. Properties of Functions/Linear Relationships
5. Function Systems

**Course Web Site**

Our **class Wiki (**[**http://wlpcsupperschool.wikispaces.com/Stiff**](http://wlpcsupperschool.wikispaces.com/Stiff)**)** is your first stop for resources, including: syllabus, daily homework, answer keys, course notes, and links to helpful Algebra resources.

**Grading Scale**

We will follow the standard Washington Latin grading scale with one major exception: **Weekly quizzes** will be graded as earning either an A (90 – 100%), B (80 – 89%), or a Not Yet (below 80%). If you earn a Not Yet on a quiz, you are **required** to make an appointment for tutorial to re-take the quiz until you earn an A or B. This gives me the opportunity to help you keep pace with the class.

**Method of Evaluation**

Tests 45% of grade

Quizzes, Projects, Classwork 30% of grade

Homework 10% of grade

Participation 15% of grade

*How do you grade my homework?*

* + Summary: 2 points per homework assignment
  + Detail:
    - Homework will be checked daily for completion and work shown. You will earn between 0 and 2 points.
    - I will usually not collect homework because we will go over it in class and I want you to use it as a resource for practice and review.
    - Late Assignments:Following Washington Latin’s homework policy, **I cannot and will not accept daily homework assignments turned in late.**
    - Plagiarism/Cheating: If a student is caught copying or sharing part or all of a homework assignment from/with another student, both students will automatically receive a “0” for the assignment and the incident will be reported to the Dean.

*What counts toward my daily participation grade?*

* + Summary: timeliness + preparation + warm up + class presence + humanity point = 6 points
  + Detail:
    - Timeliness: You will earn 1 point for being on time to class.
    - Preparation: You **must** have your binder and any necessary materials out and ready to use at the start of every class period.
    - Warm Up: You will earn 1 point for your warm up based on completion and based on focus. To get a 1 on your warm up, you need to have finished it, or be on your way to finishing it by the end of warm-up time. You must also have worked on it **silently**.
    - Class Presence: Following directions in a prompt manner, actively listening, asking thoughtful questions, taking notes, actively participating, and effort, effort, effort! These actions will help you earn 2 more points toward your participation grade.
    - Humanity Point: All communities, and classroom communities in particular, run smoothly and joyfully when we treat each other with human dignity. You can earn 1 humanity point by being respectful in class.

**Tests and Final Exam**

You will take a test after every unit (approximately every six weeks). Tests will be made of both short-answer and problem-solving problems, including problems that require you to apply what we have learned to an unfamiliar scenario. Each test will focus on the preceding unit, but will require mastery of previously-learned material.

There will be a final exam worth 20% of your final grade.

**Re-take Policy**

Unit tests or other major tests are “game day”. While one re-take per semester is allowed, it is far better to ask for help early if you need it, and to come to the test ready to do your best!

**Required Materials**

* **3-Ring Binder** dedicated to Algebra II only
* Binder dividers to separate HW, assessments, class notes.
* 3 sharpened pencils with erasers or lead pencil with lead and erasers
* Homework planner
* Regular paper and graph paper
* **TI 34 Multi-View or TI-84 Plus, TI-84 Plus Silver or TI 83 Plus Calculator**  
  I will **not** provide calculators

**Absence Policy**

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make-up all assignments you missed in a timely manner. Washington Latin’s policy is that you have as many days as you were absent to make up assignments. Your best resources in completing make-up work are the class Wiki page, and tutorial.

**Classroom Expectations**

* This class is about algebra. Please don’t take away the ability of your classmates to learn by unduly drawing attention to yourself. I will not tolerate distractions from learning.
* Hateful comments and name-calling will not be tolerated. This applies to “joking” as well as serious comments concerning race, gender, sexuality, appearance or other personal qualities that offend or belittle another member of our community.
* Cell phones, iPods, and all other electronic devices (other than calculators) must be checked in at the start of class. They may only be retrieved with permission at the end of class.
* When given an in-class assignment, please go to work promptly and do your best.
* Pay attention when I am instructing the class. Please show me that I have your full attention by ending any side conversations and by making occasional eye contact.
* **Help each other! During most classwork assignments, you will be allowed, and encouraged, to work with your classmates. If you feel comfortable completing an assignment, check in on your neighbor and see if he/she could use some help. If you can explain a concept, you are much more likely to retain it!**
* If you don’t understand material in class, it is your responsibility to seek help. Please make an appointment to see me during tutorial, during my free periods, or during lunch. If you make an appointment, please honor that time by showing up on time prepared with questions.
* A couple quick “No” rules:

|  |
| --- |
| • cell phones/headphones • food or drink • “trashketball” • bathroom/water breaks |

* A couple quick “Be”s:
  + Be *punctual*
    - Be inside the classroom and ready to begin at the start time.
  + Be *prepared*.
    - Arrive to class with your binder, pencil, calculator, and completed homework or other assignments that are due.
  + Be *positive.*
    - Show that you believe in the abilities of yourself and your classmates to succeed – and be willing to make and learn from mistakes!
  + Be *present.*
    - If you miss a class, see me, or the Wiki, promptly to make up missed work
  + Be *responsible* – for your words, your actions, your classroom.
    - If you make a mistake, own it – we all make mistakes, so the really important thing is what we do after we make one.
    - This is your classroom, and we share it with others – please leave it cleaner than you found it. I will not dismiss the class until the classroom is tidy.

**Success**

Ultimately, my goal as a teacher is to prepare you for success in life. I believe that your success depends largely on your character, and your character is the combination of your **habits of thought** and **habits of behavior**. Throughout the year, I will be helping you develop habits that lead to good character, which will in turn lead to your success. These habits include: confidence, hard work, perseverance, cooperation, self-control, precision, clarity, focus, and attentiveness.

**Stiff**

**Algebra I Syllabus**

**2016 – 2017**

**Please sign and date the following then detach and return this sheet to the teacher.**

My child and I have read and discussed the syllabus. We understand the course overview, what supplies we are expected to have, the grading rubric, and administrative policies.

Print ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­Student Name

Student Signature Date

Print Parent/Legal Guardian Name

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature Date